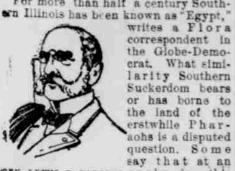
THE FRUIT-GROWING REGION OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS.

A Mammoth Industry and How It Is Conducted-Profits of Fruit Growing-some Pomological Bananas How the Orchards Are Planted and Cared For-

Southern Suckerdom. For more than half a century South-



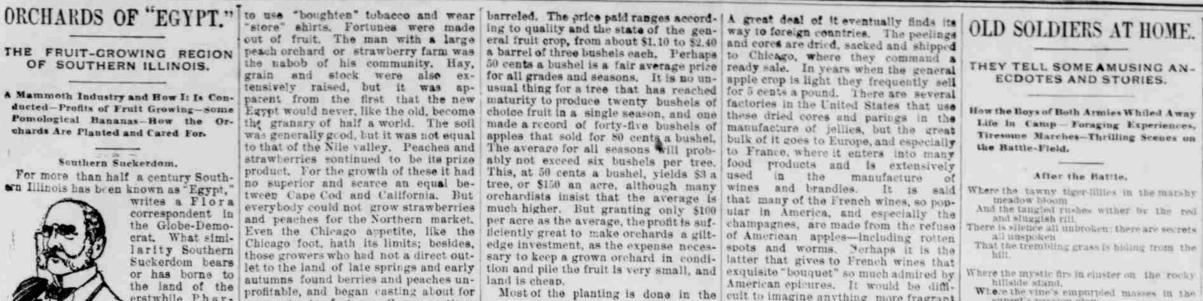
GEN. LEWIS B. PARSONS early day this section was celebrated for its corn crops, and that residents of countles farther north made frequent pligrimages to purchase it, even as the sons of Jacob went down into the Egypt of old with sacks and shekels. That is the explanation offered by the Illinois Egyptians, but their northern fellowcitizens tender a different tale. They state that the term was not intended to typify a land of plenty, one flowing Marion, Clay, Wayne and Bichland with milk and honey and teeming with wine and corn and oil-one "where every prospect pleases and only man is vile"-but rather a country the poverty of whose soil was equaled only by the dense ignorance and constitutional in-



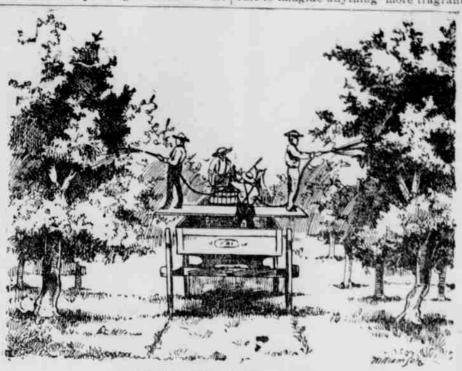
dolence of its people. The products of acre, the purchaser assuming not only the Illinois Egypt were popularly sup- all risks but the expense of picking and posed to consist principally of "buck barreling the fruit. Two years ago he poles; the chief occupation of the peo- Four crops gathered from a young of the modern Egypt were supposed to in the aggregate. Many others be held in a bondage of laziness from who were among the first to plant which no Midianite Moses would ever orchards have done equally as well. It lead them-to be groping in mental was such remarkable exhibits as the darkness, compared to which the shad- above that converted the incredulous ows that fell upon the land of the and set everybody who could command Pharaohs was an Italian sunset. South- the wherewith to purchase a piece of

"store" shirts. Fortunes were made out of fruit. The man with a large peach orchard or strawberry farm was the nabob of his community. Hay, grain and stock were also extensively raised, but it was apparent from the first that the new Egypt would never, like the old, become the granary of half a world. The soil was generally good, but it was not equal to that of the Nile valley. Peaches and strawberries continued to be its prize product. For the growth of these it had no superior and scarce an equal between Cape Cod and California, But everybody could not grow strawberries and peaches for the Northern market. Even the Chicago appetite, like the Chicago foot, hath its limits; besides, those growers who had not a direct outlet to the land of late springs and early autumns found berries and peaches unprofitable, and began casting about for new cuts to fortune. Some sections found a fair profit in cereals, but these were advantages enjoyed in common with most sections of the Union.
An Apple-Baising Manta.

Some years ago it occurred to a few restless spirits that opulence might be found in apple orchards, and they began to experiment. Most people were incredulous, Everybody knew Egypt would grow good apples, but few supposed it possessed peculiar advantages for that industry. In some sections the experiments did not prove very successful, but in the counties of good results were obtained and orehard planting on an extensive scale soon followed. The pioneers of the orchard industry planted many varieties, and, as the apple tree is of slow growth, several years elapsed before it was ascertained that the soil and climate were especially adapted to two or three varieties only. Mr. Thomas H. Lowrey is the pioneer of the orchard industry of this section. He planted the first commercial orchard in 1866. It consisted of thirty-two acres of various varieties, and is still fruitful at the good old age of twenty-six years. Two hundred wine-sap trees in this orchard produced in one season 3,000 bushels of apples, or an average of fifteen bushels per tree. They sold readily at 80 cents a bushel, or \$2,400 for the lot, which was grown on four acres. Mr. Lowrey last season sold his apple crop, on the trees, in the month of July, for \$225 per ague," yellow dogs, 'possums, and hoop- sold his crop for \$250 an acre. ple to be chewing plug tobacco and orchard have netted him beswallowing quinine The inhabitants tween \$500 and \$600 per acre ern Illinois was regarded as the Naza- ground and a stock of trees to planting



for 5 cents a pound. There are several in the manufacture of It is said American epicures. It would be diffi-Most of the planting is done in the cult to imagine anything more fragrant



SPRAYING AN APPLE ORCHARD.

fall, though many trees are put out in than a sack of apple parings that had the spring. Some planters plow the been bleached and dried. They certainly ground thoroughly, but the usual seem good enough to become the basis method is, in case of fall planting, to of the best champagne. A great many plow only strips, five or six furrows tons of this fruit refuse are shipped anplaced. The best success is obtained ties, netting a very pretty sum. The 2-year-olds are planted. Great care is garded as being equal to any known to taken to place the roots of the young the trade. More than \$60,000 worth of trees straight and give them plenty of evaporated fruit was shipped from Flora mellow earth to expand in. One-year- alone last year. The evaporators usually old trees are simply well-developed begin operations about the middle of switches, but the 2-year-olds are July and run day and night, and Sunusually "headed"-have put forth tiny days, until November I. Some vinegar branches. Great care is taken at the and cider is produced, but evaporated nursery to make the trees head near fruit is conceded to be the most proacthe ground, tall and stately trunks be- table way of working up the cullings, ing considered entirely too ornamental | Winter apples are picked in October cutting off the tops of the infant trees the ceremony. As the trees branch low and stripping the buds from the stem to fully two-thirds of the crop can be usually placed thirty feet apart each ground. To prevent bruising a large

way, which allows forty-eight to the acre feet, thus securing a stand of fifty to the acre. When the trees attain maturity the space between them is narrowed down to a foot-path. The orchards are usually kept in corn until the trees are 4 years old, as this affords them the necessary cultivation, and the partial shade thus secured is thought to be beneficial to the young trees. They begin to bear when about 7 years old, and at the age of 10 are producing a fair erop. They do not reach the best bearng period until the age of 15. From that age until 30 is regarded as the most profitable life of a tree, though many believe that, with proper care and pruning, the prolific age may be prolonged indefinitely. The young trees require a little pruning to shape them properly, but they are seldom touched with shears or knife after they begin to bear until the age of 15 years, when the old branches are thinned out, affording room for a new and vigorous growth.

Money in the Business. "Big money," actual or potential, does not cause the people of the apple belt to neglect little things. They guard as carefully against waste as does the become a standard article of commerce.

wide, where the young trees are to be nually from Richland and Clay Counwith I-year-old trees, though many evaporated fruit of this section is re-

to be useful. This is accomplished by and everybody is expected to assist we the required height. The trees are picked while the operators stand on the hopper is made of strong muslin, with Some orehardists plant them 30x28 an opening at the bottom through which



Chicago pork-packer, who is supposed the apples pass to a table covered with to find a profit even in the curl of a many sheets of some strong cloth. pig's tail. While certain that they have | This is placed where the pickers from discovered a royal road to wealth, they four trees can throw into it. As soon do not neglect the economical turnpike. as the table, which holds perhaps a Every apple, big and little, is turned to bushel, is filled, the upper cloth is rea profit, and even the parings and cores | moved by taking it up by the four corare transmuted into yellow gold. Apples | ners and emptied into a barrel or pile that cannot find a market with their upon the ground, and this process is rejackets on are evaporated, and thereby peated until the supply of cloths on the receiving table is exhausted. Buyers A few large growers have their own come from St. Louis and Chicago and evaporating establishments, but most contract for the apples, sometimes by of this work is done by independent en- the barrel, but frequently by the lot. terprise. The largest evaporators are As the orchards develop it will be neceslocated at Flora, in Clay County, and sary for them to take entire charge of at Nobie, in Richland County. These the gathering and barreling, as the evaporators have a capacity of about amount of labor necessary will be fat 900 bushels per day each. Last season greater than the local supply. The

READY FOR HARVEST.

to ret in the orekards. The fruit is first | Louis, to Europe and Bouth America.

plags are bought by weight, the price | fruit, where so kept, is stored in what paid ranging from 40 cents to 70 cents are called cold storage houses, being per 100 paulids, or 20 cents to 25 cents a simply buildings where, by means o bushel. A great many thousands of double walls and sawdust filling, ar collars are annually paid out for fruit equable temperature is maintained that, but for the evaporators, would be Some of the fruit grown in this section

pared and cored by machines operated. The orchands present a brantiful ap-by girls. It is then subjected to a pearance in the oping when in the bleaching process, which consists of the circus, and again in the autumn when combin of horning sulplors. It comes bales with the law-ions spile. Man, out almost as while as a sheet of quie there are an enverent with bloom in Mal report, and then goes to the alleing may as to recombin pyramide of more, and were rolling northward, and the rotten will probably tune a real in department of the which it pages this the so bravily being with fruit in Orbeits. stricts, where it achieved for an house of that, at a little distance, they seem more to a temperature of our courses would mound and applies the convex and The fruit is security and in the ope Fahrenhorn, it is then ready for boating times being a new spirition, we stored to very hospitable man, but there was which can death, stored on the tree area and the distributed by the present of the stored markets for the stored markets for

OLD SOLDIERS AT HOME.

THEY TELL SOME AMUSING AN-ECDOTES AND STURIES.

How the Boys of Both Armies Whiled Away Life in Camp-Foraging Experiences, Tiresome Marches-Thrilling Scenes on the Battle-Field.

After the Battle.

Where the tawny tiger-lillies in the marshy meadow bloom And the tangled rushes wither by the red

Where the mystic firs in cluster on the rocky ulliside stand. where the vine's empurphed masses in the sinset's passion glow.

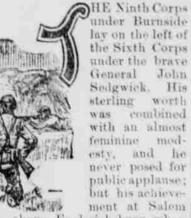
Lo! the bird notes are a dying and the troubled wind is sighing

Over meadow, over mountain, in a city by the

There are wives and mothers waiting: there are sweet hopes growing cold:
There are eyes that watch in anguish, there are loving hearts that is a cush
For the secret that small nevermore be told.

- Edgar Mayhow Bacon in Scrimer's.

How Gen. Sedgwick Died.



never posed for public applause; but his achievement at Salem Church, above Fredericksburg, when he fought Lee's victorious troops for five hours with a single corps and then safely transferred his men across the river under the fire of rebel guns, was not surpassed in the four years. But, alas! his cool bravery only served him

His corps was ordered to move from the right to the left, toward North Anna River, passing the Ninth Corps to the rear of it. The writer was with others commanding the picket line.

once, as a martyr,

Located immediately in our front, in the arms of a large oak that rose above the second growth of timber that was skirted with our pickets, who were in skirmish lines, was a sharpshooter who had played deadly havor on the lines of both the Sixth and Ninth Corps, dealing death to every officer especially who came within range. I had been obliged all day to avoid his aim by bugging close to the fine timber just back of our line. Gen. Sedgwick had been examining his route of march which must be made in the night, when he came through the open pine woods. where I was. Seeing him approaching an open space, he was warned of the danger. He smilingly replied:

"Captain, have you been out here so long that your knees are weak? Can we not dislodge the Reb with a shell? Let me see.

Riding out to where the view was clear, he halted his horse, lifting his field glass to his eyes and sat thus perhaps a half a minute, when his sight went out forever. One of the sharpshooter's minic balls shricked across the open and pierced his fore-

head. His death was instantaneous, During the day an Indian named Silverheels, belonging to the artillery, was shot on the skirmish line. His tent mate, named Rattlesnake, was much bereft at the loss. He was close by when tien, Sedgwick fell. He was a great lover of Sedgwick, who had made him several presents for dangerous service.

Coming to where I was, Rattlesnake said: "Too mush! Too mush, dat! He die, or me die," pointing to the sharpshooter.

Covering himself with pine boughs, he ventured cautiously into the open field, stood still like a bush when the Reb was firing on the Ninth Corps, moving swiftly when his gun smoke sponted toward the Sixth. Almost breathless I gladly saw him enter the woods. A few minutes only and the crack of the rifle in the tree ceased forever, and Sedgwick and Silverheels were revenged. One lone stifled rifle shot down low in the woods was all that came to our ears. Rattlesnake reappeared, proud, erect, fearless, and hastened to me.

His hands were red in spots, so was his bosom. I was afraid he had been wounded himself. He only said slowly, and in bad English:

"Major, he no want scalp," alluding to the Commander of our battalion. I said, "Ah, no! that too muchy like Injun.

He said, "No more shooty Sedgwick. He had a Spencer rifle and one hun-

dred rounds of new cartridges. He told with many gesticulations low he had crept to within a few feet of the tree, took deadly aim, and said, Drop dat shooter." The Rebel lropped his gun and his cartrides. Then he jumped to the ground and ffered to go anywhere.

Rastlesnake examined him to see that he had no other weapons, and then said, "Go, go." The sharp-shooter was not long in obeying. After he had gone a little way, the Indian

"Hello, Reb; halt!"

The Reb stopped and turned, when Rattlesnake said, "Sodgwick," and the harpshooter's deadly work was ended. I always had my anspicion as to how hat blood came on his shirt bosom. but I do not know. One thing is sertain. Rattlesnake dul not go to the utterly worthings, and would be allowed has been shipped, via a bloage and 8s. hespital for any wound to be dressed. Now York Press.

Militarial special Site Princer.

trong the war," mid Dr. Thomas & tauber. "It was at Holly Springs. Mir. I was with the Punis Disspe-- was making my handquarters with very hospitable man but there was which cause the general ancient on

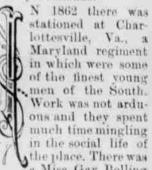
haired and a regular little spitfire, and a rebel through and through.

When t Confederates made their raid on the town they took us by surprise. I was in bed and was awakened by the discharge of guns. I got up. and dressed, and in the early morning light saw our boys coming into town from the outposts. I noticed one poor fellow, badly wounded, hobbling along the road, and took him. I carried himupstairs, put him in my bed and gave the best attention I could to his wounds.

"While I was engaged in this work my host called me downstairs, saying. 'You are wanted.' I knew what this That the trembling grass is biding from the meant. I went down and met a Confederate officer, who demanded that I surrender. I did so, and explained that I had a wounded man in the house who demanded my attention. The officer very courteonsly paroled me on For the secre that the meadow must not, the spot. It seems, however, that the red haired little rebel was mad because I had brought the wounded Yankee into the house, and she was determined to make trouble for me. She told some other Confederate officer that I was there and he very promptly took me prisoner. He came at me with drawn sword and said: 'Surrender sir!' 'I have surrendered, HE Ninth Corps said I.

"I again explained, and was paroled and returned to my patient. This surrender business was repeated until six different Confederates had taken me prisoner. Mr. Sixth Captor was a private, a boy about 18 years old, and he rushed in the house with his musket leveled, and seemed determine to shoot. I have always had a suspicion that the girl put him up to it. I tried to explain that I had already been paroled five times, but it was hard work to get him to listen to anything. He kept velling at me to surrender, and made me stand with my hands high in the air while I made my explanation. I believe he would have shot me but for the interference of my host and some Confederate officers who happened to come along.'

Courted by Command.



a Miss Gay Bolling living there who proved especially attractive to the young men on account of her beauty and wit. Three of them, Colonel Ridgely and Captains Booth and Williams, became completely infatuated with her. They began to neglect their duties and there was every prospect of the regiment becoming disorganized when the colonel could stand it no longer and one day he summoned the three to his tent and

"Gentlemen this command is going to the devil. All discipline is gone, and none of you are attending to your duty. Calico has set you crazy, Now, this thing has got to stop. Miss Gay can't marry you all. I doubt whether she wants either. So you've got to settle the matter at once. In love rank doesn't count, if it does in war. You are to draw straws and court Miss Gay before dress parade this evening. Get on your horses and proceed to business and report to me after parade."

The young fellows looked rather scared. They would have charged a battery or rushed on a line of battle. They had often done so at the tap of drum or the sound of bugle, but the idea of attacking this ravishing, entrancing bit of divinity and calico at a moment's notice under orders was appalling. However, they knew the colonel's word was law, so they drew straws. Captain Booth got the longest, and had first chance according to orders, so off he went. The others followed at a safe distance. After a short time Captain Booth came storming back to camp without saving a word. This encouraged the other two and Captain Williams spurred ahead very gallantly. In a very short time, however, he, too, came hastening back and cried to the colonel as he rode past him: "Go in, Colonel, the ranks are shaking, but the line's firm." This was discouraging, but the

Colonel walked bravely up and got his conge like his predecessors. Three attacks in sixty minutes, and

Gay routed the attacking column, horse, foot and artillery. She never knew she had been courted by command and is now a hand-

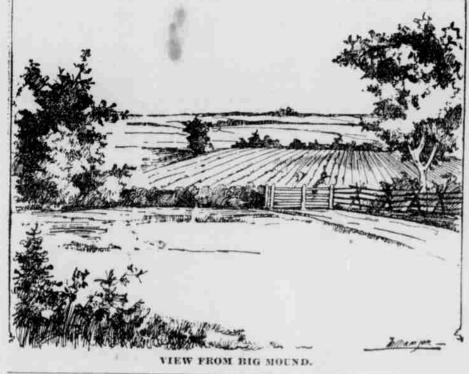
some matron with eleven children.

Coughed Up a Bullet. W. D. Walton, a well known citizen of Petersburg, Va., recently coughed up a bullet which he had carried in his body since the war. He was a member of Co. I, Twelfth Virginia Regiment, and at the battle of Spottsylvania Court House he was struck by a ball, which lodged in this body and has been in him ever since. For years Mr. Walton has been in very poor health. Some months ago an abress began to form on his breast near where he was wounded, and he was compelled to close business and take to his bed. A few days ago the abcess broke, and in a coughing spell Mr. Walton coughed up half of the ball. He now looks like an entirely new man. Before he scarcely had any appetite, now his appetite cannot be satisfied. Grand Army Record.

Chinese Cities Smaller than We Thinks Harsot travelers say that the population of the Chinese cities is, as a rule, greatly overestimated. For years bank Pokin has been suppressed to contain about 1,00,000 inbalutants; now the population is placed at 800 000. There "I sure-induced six times in one day makes depend for their value upon the person who makes them,

A NOW INSUVANION.

Burglack inversion in the labest security in the coverage business. It is





THER PLANTING.

Central Railway the culture of small fruits and berries was begun in a small way. It proved quite profitable, and a new era dawned upon Egypt. Handsome towns sprang up and floorished. Industrious immigrants came pouched in, who planted peach orchards and set out strawberry bais of many acros. Car-lead lots of the justious products trains, constating of saveral sections, even hade lair prices, Northern Bittesis acream of money and merchandian time when it recess to figure. branches one brate-The possesse and his improvious par-

reth of the new world, from which no orchards. Planting on a large scale begood was expected to proceed. It was gan eight years ago, but the "apple sparsely settled, and land might be had craze" did not assume an epidemic form almost for the asking; it was within easy until about 1888-89, consequently most reach of Chicago, St. Louis, and other of the orchards in the great apple belt mighty markets; the Father of Waters are too young to bear. The magnificent caressed it on the west, and the raging returns paid by those that have reached Wabash fretted along the east, and the maturity is a constant stimulus, and the sunny waters of the Ohio sparkled on number of trees put out each succeedthe south. Railways pierced it, and a ing year increases in a ratio of geometsky of Italian softness smiled upon it; rical progression. The desire to secure it was threaded by a thousand small orchards now amounts to almost a streams, and medicinal springs, such as mania, and may not inaptly be com-Ponce de Leon vainly sought among the pared to the gold fever that once raged everglades and alligators of Florida, with such virulence in California. It is burst from its sunny bosom; but it lay estimated that within the past three under the ban, and did not prosper or years 1,000,000 apple trees have been progress. Home-seekers burried across | put out in Marion, Clay, Richland and It to waste their energies upon the arid | Wayne Counties, and the work may be | plains of Western Kansas, or wear out said to have just begun. Many farmers the one at Flora used up 45,000 great bulk of the fruit is sold as soon their lives in unequal battle with the will plant from ten to 200 acres more bushels of apples. When running as it matures, or even before that next fall. The local nurseries cannot supply the demand for trees in their iments. The cullings and drop- of their crop for the spring market. The Finally along the line of the Illinois supply the demand for trees in their immediate neighborhood, and trees are shipped in by the car-load from Missouri and Indiana nurseries.

A County of Orchards, Clay County already has the largest or hard area of any county in the Union. Twenty-eight thousand acres and nearly 1,500,000 trees are the figures. The other counties in the apple

belt are making a noble struggle to keep abreast of the procession, and are not lagging far behind, Wayne is a good It is safe to predict that the orchard area of these four counties will double during the next three years. The orchards range in size from 10 to 350 acres. A man with less than ten acres is not considered worthy the note of the apple statistician. He does not appear in the figures. Orchards of 50, 80 and 100 acres are common. Nearly every business and professional man in the four apple counties has contracted the orehard fever, and cast an unchor to windward in the shape of a few hundred growing trees. Perhaps four-fitthe of the apple or hards have not reached the bearing age, and of the remainder only a small portion are in their prime. Yet it is estimated that three years ago, which was a very favorable crop year. more than \$400,000 was paid out in Clay County alone for apples. Two years ago the crop was not so good, yet some \$100 not was poured into the pockets of thay county apple growers. Last year, with a still been favorable crop, it reaches Car lead lots of the lundtons products the song own of a quarter million dat-began to find their way to the Northern lars. When his the recens new planes. markets, and some great fruit and turry | in the apple had use bearing, and a good.

Ministrug; said Kindy sucr begate by disappear. The natives obsid, societions on the irres, namesavight the spirit of progress and bugan ; times plint on the growest and semestates or experience are the house and a binage, I want utilize.